Foreign Mail Articles and Pension/Terminal benefits to postal pensioners.

2. The details/modalities of formation of these 'Dak Adalats' are as under :-

Composition

The Adalat comprises of three members - Head of the Circle (Chairman), Internal Financial Adviser and Director Postal Services. The Regional Postmaster General can also be called to assist the Chief Postmaster General.

Scope

The types of complaints and disputes which are taken up by these Adalats cover all types of problems relating to Postal Services, especially, mails, speed post, parcels, counter service, Savings Bank, Money Orders, embezzlements and also the pension cases of Postal Employees.

Jurisdiction, Venue & Frequency

The Adalats are held once in each quarter at the Head-quarter of the circle with a provision to hold it in any other place also, in the respective Postal Circle. On 29.10.91 the scheme was extended to the Divisional level as well. The Senior Superintendent of Post Offices/Superintendent of Post Offices chairs the Divisional Adalat. A notice of 4 to 6 weeks is given for holding of an Adalat. Wide publicity is also given for holding such Adalat through the press, TV/ AIR so that any concerned person having a grievance can approach the Dak Adalat for redressal.

[English]

Commercialisation of Unutilised Railway Property

*237. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal under consideration of commercial utilization of Railway properties and lands;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have worked out an identified surplus railway land;

(d) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;

(e) whether the Government have consulted or propose to consult the State Governments on the subject; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Railways have proposed commercial utilisation of airspace over railway structures/yards for raising resources. One such project is at Mumbai (Bandra). However, a decision on this issue, has been deferred by the Government of India.

(c) No, Sir. Railways do not have surplus land.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. For Pilot project at Bandra concerned State Government i.e. State Government of Maharashtra has been consulted. The surplus funds generated were proposed to be equally utilised for taking up Railway works in city of Mumbai, State of Maharashtra and other parts of the country.

[Translation]

Theft in Gold Mines

*238. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Gold worth crores of rupees is being stolen from Gold Mines every year;

(b) if so, the details and the market value thereof;

(c) the quantity of gold stolen from mines during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the theft of Gold from Gold Mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Attention of the Government has been drawn from time to time to the alleged theft of gold from the gold mines of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Mines. According to the available information, stray cases of theft of gold bearing quartz have been reported from the mines of BGML. These are isolated cases and the quantity and value of gold involved are not significant. Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML), a public sector undertaking of the Government of Karnataka, have reported that no theft of gold has occurred in the Hutti gold mines.

To strengthen the security arrangements of BGML, the following steps have been taken :-

(i) Physical search of the employees working in the mines and mills is being conducted regularly. Surprise checks are also being conducted.